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LUBIN & ENOCH, P.C. 1 AZ CORP COMMISSION Nicholas J. Enoch, State Bar No. 016473 DOCKET CONTROL 2 Kaitlyn A. Redfield-Ortiz, State Bar No. 030318 Emily A. Tornabene, State Bar No. 030855 2017 JUN -1 P 3: 49 349 North Fourth Avenue 3 Phoenix, Arizona 85003 Arizona Corporation Commission Telephone: 602-234-0008 4 DOCKETED Facsimile: 602-626-3586 5 Email: nick@lubinandenoch.com JUN 01 2017 Attorneys for Intervenors IBEW Locals 387 and 769 6 DOCKETED BY BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 7 8 TOM FORESE, Chairman DOUG LITTLE, Commissioner BOYD DUNN, Commissioner ANDY TOBIN, Commissioner 10 BOB BURNS, Commissioner 11 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION) Docket No.: E-01345A-16-0036 OF ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE 12 COMPANY FOR A HEARING TO Docket No.: E-01345A-16-0123 DETERMINE THE FAIR VALUE OF THE 13 REPLY BRIEF OF INTERVENORS IBEW UTILITY PROPERTY OF THE COMPANY **LOCALS 387 AND 769** FOR RATEMAKING PURPOSES, TO FIX A 14 JUST AND REASONABLE RATE OF RETURN THEREON, TO APPROVE RATE 15 SCHEDULES DESIGNED TO DEVELOP SUCH RETURN. 16 17 IN THE MATTER OF FUEL AND PURCHASED POWER PROCUREMENT 18 AUDITS FOR ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE **COMPANY** 19 20 Intervenors Local Unions 387 and 769, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO, CLC ("IBEW Locals"), by and through undersigned counsel, hereby submit this 21 Reply Brief in support of the Settlement Agreement filed by Commission Staff on March 27, 22 2017 in the above-captioned Docket. 23 24

The IBEW Locals have reviewed the initial post-hearing briefs filed by the parties in this matter on May 17, 2017 and submit that their initial brief sufficiently addresses the arguments raised by the parties to this proceeding. Therefore, the IBEW Locals offer a brief response to the argument made by Intervenors Electrical District Number Six, Pinal County, Arizona ("ED6"); Electrical District Number Seven of the County of Maricopa, State of Arizona ("ED7"); Aguila Irrigation District ("AID"); Tonopah Irrigation District ("TID"); Harquahala Valley Power District ("HVPD"); and Maricopa County Municipal Water Conservation District Number One ("MWD") (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Districts") that the settlement agreement is somehow unequal and not in the public interest due to the settlement process. In their initial post-hearing brief, the Districts state that "[t]his non-unanimous settlement process, which left out parties with less bargaining power, resulted in an unequal settlement that is not in the public interest." According to the Districts, "the settlement process should have included steps to address APS's outsized power and recognize the inherent structural inequality among the parties." What the Districts seem to be taking issue with is the whole concept of parties reaching non-unanimous settlement agreements – a process that has successfully existed for decades and that produces many benefits.3

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To begin, all intervenors were invited to participate in the settlement discussions in this case. The parties were always notified of settlement meetings, term sheets and handouts were distributed in advance, and each party had the opportunity to be present and heard on their issues. These discussions included over 30 parties who participated in varying degrees in the settlement meetings. The Settlement Agreement incorporates various provisions that were either direct suggestions made during the discussions or that were prompted by the expressed positions of signatories and non-signatories. Notably, there is not one party that got everything it wanted in the Settlement Agreement. This is because settlement by its nature involves a give and take process – concessions were made on behalf of each signatory. What is remarkable is that only 5 of the 40 intervening parties filed testimony in opposition to the Settlement Agreement, and 29

¹ The Districts' Closing Brief in Opposition to Non-Unanimous Settlement Agreement at 5.

³ See, Stefan H. Krieger, Problems for Captive Ratepayers in Nonunanimous Settlements of Public Utility
Rate Cases, YALE J. ON REG., Vol. 12:279 (1995) (stating that the energy crisis of the 1970's contributed to the rapid
increase in rate cases which caused the development of pays methods for rate cases resolution. "including the use of

increase in rate cases which caused the development of new methods for rate case resolution – "including the use of nonunanimous settlements.").

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parties chose to become signatories to it. This breadth of participation should be accorded great weight in demonstrating that the Settlement Agreement is just, reasonable, and in the public interest. Furthermore, dissenting parties were protected through the customary rights of notice and an opportunity to be heard. Contested issues remain just that, contested. The Commission will make its determination based on the record developed. What remains entirely unclear is how this process has "left out parties" in any way as the Districts assert.

Non-unanimous settlement agreements have been reached in public utility rate cases for decades. This is because settling rate cases has many advantages over time-consuming litigation, and requiring a unanimous agreement is not only unrealistic, it encourages "hostage-taking." In addition, the District's assumption that the settlement negotiations must be among equals is simply fallacious. A balance of power in negotiations does not reflect real life and is not a prerequisite to settlement. That being said, there was no attempt by the alleged stronger parties to intimidate any alleged weaker party into settlement in this case. To the contrary, the alleged stronger parties went to great lengths to provide data and explain the process to the alleged weaker parties. While it is true that all of the non-signatories' issues were not resolved in the Settlement Agreement, they were not ignored. Whatever issues that may have been excluded were done so after serious bargaining among capable, knowledgeable parties. As a result, the Settlement Agreement provides an effectively crafted and innovative result that is just, reasonable, and in the best interest of the public.

In sum, the IBEW Locals respectfully request that the Commission approve the Settlement Agreement in its present form.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 1st day of June, 2017.

Jornabene Emily A. Tornabene, Esq.

Lubin & Enoch, P.C.

Attorneys for Intervenors IBEW Locals 387 and 769

⁴ See, Alan P. Buchmann and Robert S. Tongren, Nonunanimous Settlements of Public Utility Rate Cases: A Response, YALE J. ON REG., Vol.13:343 (1996).

1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
2	Original and thirteen copies of the IBEW Locals' Reply Brief filed this 1st day of June, 2017, with:
3	
4	Arizona Corporation Commission Docket Control Center
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8	/s/ Stacey L. Lucas
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